

HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT.REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHJ. S. RANSON. ,M.R.C.S:L.R.C.P:D.P.H.FOR THE YEAR 1945.SECTION A.

Area in acres..... 77,089

Population (Registrar General's estimate)..... 15,440

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)
according to the rate books..... 5,390

Rateable Value.....£55,187

Sum represented by a penny rate..... £234

Extracts from vital statistics:-

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>female.</u>
Live Births.	Legitimate	195	99	96
	illegitimate	20	6	14
Still Births.		14	10	4

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population..13.9

Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.....64.6

Deaths (Registrar General's estimate).....227

Death rate per 1,000 resident population.....14.6

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

Total Deaths..... 7

Deaths of all infants per 1,000 live births.....32.5

Deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000
legitimate live births.....35.8Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000
illegitimate live births..... 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....30

Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... 0

Deaths from Whoopingcough (all ages)..... 0

Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... 0

Deaths at various age groups during 1945
(Registered and Transferred.)

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>No. of Deaths.</u>
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Under one year..... 8

1 and under 2 years..... 1

Carried forward.

2

	No. of Deaths
Brought forward.	9
2 and under 5 years.	1
5 and under 15 years.	1
15 and under 25 years.	2
25 and under 35 years.	3
35 and under 45 years.	4
45 and under 55 years.	12
55 and under 65 years.	30
65 and under 75 years.	63
75 and upwards.	<u>98</u>
Total	<u>223</u>

SECTION B.

Health Services of the Area.

Staff:-

J. S. Ranson, M. R. C. S: L. R. C. F: D. P. H.
Medical Officer of Health.

G. F. Dearman, , A. R. S. I: M. S. I. A.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

R. E. Ingleby, A. R. S. I. , R. P. C.
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

The Ambulance Services and Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Inspection of the area.

Water Supplies.

Bacterial examination of piped water supplies

Samples submitted for examination.	26
Number thereof found to be satisfactory.	26

Public Water Mains.

Supplies direct into houses.	1050
Population served	4000
Supplied by standpipes-houses served	300
Population served	1200

Inspections etc.

Pumps repaired	19
Pumps inspected	34
Standpipes repaired.	1
Services repaired.	15
Wells cleansed and repaired.	16
New Services.	29
Ram Supplies cleansed and repaired.	3
Ram Supplies inspected.	7
Waterworks inspections etc.	76
Water reading	103
Analysis (a) private.	3
(b) public.	38

Nuisances.

Complaints received. ... 26

Disinfections.

Re infectious diseases etc.... 12

Knackers yards. ... -

Drainage.

Sewer ditches inspected. ... 39

Sewers inspected. ... 47

Sewers repaired. ... 12

Cesspools etc. inspected. ... 4

Repairs and improvements. ... 6

Sewage works inspections etc.. ... 98

Drains inspected (old) ... 61

Drains inspected (new) ... 19

Conversions (pails to W.Cs.) ... 5

Conversions (privies to pails) ... -

New Pail Closets. ... 1

New Water Closets. ... 4

SECTION D -- Housing.

Re-conditioning inspections. 21.

Houses inspected (routine) 168.

Inspections re complaints. 80.

Interviews re housing. 41.

Council house repair inspections. 97.

Inspections re sites and new works. 135.

Inspections re private buildings. 29.

Town planning inspections. 25.

Overcrowding inspections. 5.

There has been very little alteration in the housing position during the year. The return of young people from the forces has created overcrowding in many of their parent's homes which cannot be relieved until more houses are built.

Many of the old stud and plaster houses in the District cannot be brought up to present day standards at reasonable cost and must be replaced by houses of up to date design. It is hoped that these houses, which have been characteristic of the countryside for so many years will find owners who are prepared to make them fit, preferably for their own habitation.

It is now proposed to extensively supply the district with a piped water scheme. This scheme will enforce the installation of sewage disposal works in many villages, which up to the present time only discharge their sewage into ditches. These services together with the installation of electricity will so enhance the living conditions of the countryside that, in the future the demand for outlying cottages will become almost negligible. This being so, most careful consideration must be given to the siting of houses. Whilst a single house or a pair of cottages may be able to satisfactorily discharge their sewage through an anaerobic tank into a nearby ditch, the building of another pair near them, discharging into the same ditch would create a nuisance. Therefore in the future houses, and especially houses built by the Council, must be grouped in villages for which sewage disposal works will be provided in the near future.

It must be decided at once as to which villages are to be so developed and the order of priority in this respect, building being curtailed in the meantime in those low on the list.

Of the houses at the present time owned by the Council many do not come up to present day requirements. Some have no drains

and nearly all have no bathrooms. The increase in the agricultural wage means that now many of the tenants are in a position to afford these necessities, and the Council should prepare a scheme to so alter the houses that, perhaps, by building extensions, bathrooms might be provided.

Then as the piped water schemes come along and the sewage disposal works are completed these houses would be brought up to standard..

There can be no doubt that the tenants would willingly pay the small increase in rent for these improvements!

The Council now own a considerable number of houses and have planned for the building of many more. The time has now come when these houses should no longer be known by the name of "the Council Houses" but should in all cases receive some appropriate name. It should not be difficult to find some name of local interest to attach to these houses.

It is unfortunate that, owing to lack of staff, the survey of all house property in the District is for the time being suspended. The grading of houses and earmarking of those for demolition, together with the enforcing of repairs on those unfit is essential for the future housing of the District.

SECTION E. - Inspection and supervision of food.

Visits to slaughter houses.	12
Pigs inspected.	32
Other food inspections.	10
Shops inspected.	2
Bakehouses inspected.	1
Cowsheds inspected.	48
Cowsheds improved.	14
Milk-Samples.	4

Summary of unsound food condemned during 1945.

Milk - tins.	34	Margarine - lbs.	28
Meat - tins.	22	Meat - lbs.	71
Fish - tins.	40	Fish - lbs.	30
Vegetables - tins.	39	Jam etc. - lbs.	65
Butter - lbs.	35		

SECTION F.

Prevalence and control over infectious and other diseases.

Cases of infectious disease notified during 1945.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	10	3	
Erysipelas.	1		
Measles.	63		
Diphtheria.	0		
Whoopingcough.	31		
Pneumonia.	6	1	9
Puerperal pyrexia.	1		
Infective jaundice.	17		
Totals.	<u>129</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>

Tuberculosis. - Cases notified:-

Adults - pulmonary.....	Male. 5.
	Female. 2.
Adults - non-pulmonary.....	Male. 0.
	Female. 1.
Children. - pulmonary.....	Male. 3.
	Female. 0.
	<u>11.</u>

Deaths:-

Adults - Pulmonary.....	Male.	3
	Female.	0
Adults - Non-Pulmonary.....	Male.	0
	Female.	0
Children.....		0

During the year the incidence of cases of infectious disease has been extremely low. The majority of the cases of scarlet fever have been isolated at home satisfactorily.

Of the eleven cases of tuberculosis notified, four were of persons who had recently taken up residence in the district, and two were of men who had contracted the disease during service in the forces.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunising of children against this disease has been carried on throughout the year. A very high percentage of children are now immunised, and only those of a few parents who persistently refuse remain unimmunised.

